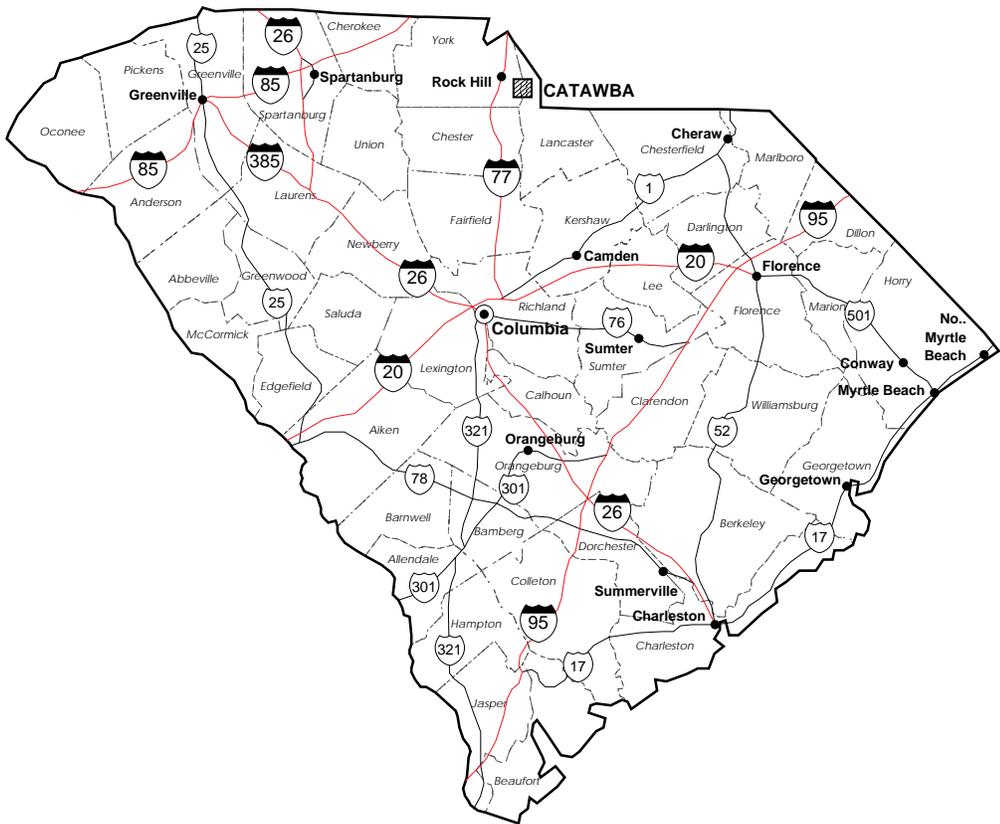


# SOUTH CAROLINA



## Catawba Reservation

Federal reservation	
Catawba	
York, Chester and Lancaster counties, South Carolina	
Catawba Tribe	
611 East Main Street	
Rock Hill, SC 29730	
(803) 328-2427	
Total area	714 acres
Tribally owned	714 acres
Tribal enrollment	1,400

### LOCATION AND LAND STATUS

The Catawba Reservation is located near the town of Rock Hill, South Carolina near the border of North Carolina. The original reservation occupied more than 15,000 square miles, the present reservation is located within the original reservation established in the Pine Tree Hill (1760) and Augusta (1763) Treaties. A treaty

entered into in 1840 was neither ratified by the federal government nor honored by South Carolina. The Catawba Indian Nation pursued negotiations with the State of South Carolina and in 1993, the U.S. Congress restored the tribe's federal recognition and settled the Catawba land claim for \$50 million.

### CULTURE AND HISTORY

The Catawbans, an ancient people who spoke the Siouan language and lived in what are now the Carolinas, befriended and traded with European settlers. Allied with the Carolina settlers, the Catawba fought against the Creek and other tribes fed up with deceitful and rogue traders, in what became known as the Yamasee War of 1715. The war was won by the Carolinians in 1717 and many smaller tribes suffered great losses during the war. The Catawba welcomed at least 30 tribes displaced by the war. During the American Revolution, the Catawba were used as scouts by the colonists and during the Civil War allied with the Confederacy. Many have also served in the U.S. military throughout the 20th century.

Small pox and other diseases contracted by the Catawba from contact with Europeans resulted in many, many deaths. So devastating were the outbreaks of diseases that the tribe of 5,000 people in the early 18th century was reduced to 250 by 1784. The original Catawba Reservation, consisting of 15,326 square miles, was established by the Pine Tree Hill and Augusta Treaties in the latter 18th century. Tribal leaders relinquished their territory in the Nation Fords Treaty of 1840 to South Carolina in exchange for money and other land in North Carolina. However, the state paid only a small portion and the tribe was left landless. They sought to regain their land and eventually South Carolina purchased 630 acres which lay within the original reservation boundaries.

In 1942 the Catawbas began a federal trust relationship, which was terminated in 1962 by Congress. In 1972 the Catawbas reorganized as a non-profit corporation and began pursuing the tribe's land claim with the help of the Native American Rights Fund. In 1993, the U.S. Congress restored the Catawba Indian Nation as a federally recognized tribe and in agreement with South Carolina, settled the tribe's claim and awarded \$50 million to the tribe.

Culture, language, and art are still alive. They have also kept up the ancient skill of pottery-making, having established a Catawba Pottery Institute in 1976; they are the only tribe east of the Mississippi that have maintained this craft. In addition to the institute, the tribe has a cultural preservation program and has increasing numbers of members learning their native language.

#### GOVERNMENT

The Catawbas are governed by a tribal council consisting of a chief, assistant chief, secretary/treasurer and five members.

#### ECONOMY

Many members of the Catawba community work a wide range of occupations in the mainstream community. From 1942 and 1962 the tribe benefited from its federal relationship, which was restored in 1993 to bring a number of federal job training programs to the reservation.

#### CONSTRUCTION

Recent construction of new housing and of an office complex employ 15 to 20 people.

#### TOURISM AND RECREATION

The Catawba Pottery Association participates in the annual Catawba Festival and permanent Catawba Village exhibit at the Schiele Museum of Natural History in Gastonia, North Carolina.

#### INFRASTRUCTURE

The town of Rock Hill is just east of U.S Interstate 77, approximately 55 miles north of Columbia. It is also served by U.S. Highway 21 and South Carolina State Highway 72. The Charlotte/Douglas International Airport is 20 miles north. Bus and train service is available in Rock Hill. Three hours to the south lies the port of Charleston.

#### COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Electricity is provided by Duke Power. York County is the natural gas provider. The Catawba Indian Nation provides health care and maintains a community center for its members. There are approximately 400 homes on the reservation; two new homes were built and nine others renovated in 1994. A BIA grant for housing improvement was expected in 1995.